

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 00755 230721Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
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R 230430Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7705
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0755

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, EG, TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIAN PRESS ON EGYPTIAN COMMANDO RAID

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN FEBRUARY 21
EDITION OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS CRITICIZED STRONGLY
EGYPT'S COMMANDO RAID IN CYPRUS. EDITORIAL SAID THE "WILD
ADVENTURE" WAS THE LAST THING THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED
FROM "A COUNTRY WHOSE LEADER RECENTLY STUNNED THE WORLD WITH
WHAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS BEEN PORTRAYING AS AN UNPRECEDENTED
PEACE INITIATIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." DAILY NEWS ATTRIBUTED
THE RAID TO EFFORT TO BOOST MORALE AT HOME RATHER THAN A
DESIRE TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES.

2. EDITORIAL SAID PRESIDENT KYPRIANON HAD RIGHTLY CONDEMNED
EGYPT'S ACTION AS A VIOLATION OF HIS COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY AND
COMMENDED HIM FOR SAVING THE HOSTAGES AND TAKING QUICK
ACTION AGAINST THEIR CAPTORS. AS FOR EGYPT, EDITORIAL CALLED
RAID "IN ITSELF AN ACT OF TERRORISM." EDITORIAL ENDED WITH A
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WARNING: "ONE HOPES THAT THE TRAGIC END OF THE EGYPTIAN
ADVENTURE IN CYPRUS WILL HELP CURB THE GROWING TENDENCY IN
CAIRO TO ACT IUNILATERALLY ON MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER NATIONS."
END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. TANGOV HAS VALUED HIGHLY ITS
RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT. OUT OF CONCERN FOR SOLIDARITY,

TANGOV NORMALLY DOES NOT PUBLICLY CRITICIZE OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. TANGOV'S RESPECT FOR EGYPT AND ITS INTEREST IN THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SUPERSEDED BY CONCERNS ABOUT RECENT EGYPTIAN ACTIONS. WHILE INDIVIDUAL TANZANIAN EXPRESS ADMIRATION FOR SADAT'S RECENT MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVES, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT IT IS MORE THE OFFICIAL TANGOV VIEW THAT HE UNWISELY BROKE RANKS WITH HIS ALLIES. TANGOV IS EVEN MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT IT SEES AS EGYPTIAN ADVENTURISM IN ACTIVE SUPPORT OF SOMALI AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA. TANGOV HAS NOT SO FAR PUBLICLY CRITICIZED EGYPT ON THESE TWO POINTS, BUT IT EVIDENTLY CHOSE THE CYPRUS RAID AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOUND A WARNING ABOUT ALL OF CARIO'S RECENT ACTIVITIES.

4. EDITORIAL INDIRECTLY ADDRESSES ITSELF TO QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IT CALLED "TERRORISTS" EDITOR SIBAI'S ASSASSINS AND AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS. THIS IS A SHIFT FROM TANGOV TENDENCY TO AVOID PUTTING TERRORIST LABEL ON ACTS OF THIRD WORLD FANATICS, NO MATTER HOW ATROCIOUS.
SPAIN

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